THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. *Societies and Branches in the Union* **602.** **LAW-ABIDING.**

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QUEEN'S WORK FOR WOMEN.

In the firm belief that prevention of distress is better than its relief, and that employment is better than charity, I have inaugurated "The Queen's 'Work for Women' Fund." Its object is to provide employment for as many as possible of the women of this country who have been thrown out of work by the war.

I appeal to the women of Great Britain to help their less fortunate sisters through this Fund.

MARY R.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Notes and Comments	425
The Queen's Work for Women	426
The Wife of the Able Seaman. By M. O'Shea	427
"In Defence of What Might Be" (Review). R. F. Cholmeley	427
Our Active Service League	430
Eking-out the Food Supply. III.—Various Produce. By Edith L. Chamberlain, F.R.H.S.	431
Notes from Headquarters	432
News from the Societies	434

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organised into 602 Societies and Branches, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN?

Notes and Comments.

Soldiers' Wives.

We are glad to see that protests are being widely made against the treatment of the families of soldiers and sailors. A busy woman with a young family ought not to be compelled to stand in a lamentable queue for hours without rest or refreshment before she can get registered for the payment of money which is due to her. These women often have babies in their arms, and little children wearily hanging to their skirts. It makes one ashamed of one's country to see the families of our brave fellows treated so. It makes one ashamed that these sad women should be sent from pillar to post, receiving "allotment" from one source and "relief" from another. We understand that, so far, what has been spent out of the Prince of Wales's Fund has gone to supplementing the sweated pay which the War Office offers as an inducement to recruiting. It is not fair. Soldiers and sailors of all grades should be well treated by their employer, the State. There should be no need for "charity" to step in to ensure at least a living wage to the man and his family.

Stop-Gaps.

It is because we are anxious the State should recognise its responsibility for proper payment of soldiers and sailors that we are not much attracted by a scheme propounded by Mr. Wells in the *Daily Chronicle*, that *educated* women should make themselves into "stop-gaps" for men in the less well-paid posts of clerks, servants, &c., who could then enlist while the educated women did their work, handing over their wage to the family of the soldier. This seems economically unsound. First, it is the duty of the Government to pay its own employees a decent wage. Secondly, there are very many less well educated women thrown out of present work who might step into these places. Thirdly, we greatly doubt whether there is any appreciable number of educated women who would stick at this sort of work. It is well to do the work that comes to hand. But there are not too many really well educated women to do the absolutely necessary jobs of directing business and expert work of all kinds. We expect Mr. Wells does not really mean "educated" women; he means idle women, and it would certainly be better that they should get busy, but not in such ways as to prevent working girls from finding suitable employment.

Extension of Women's Work.

In that remarkable compilation entitled the Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, 1914, there is to

be found on p. 107 a summary of recommendations on the Employment of Women in the Civil Service, and we fervently hope that the leisurely steps of Government Departments in times of peace may be somewhat hastened in this terrible time of war, so that they may act upon these recommendations. Here are a few :—

No. 77. The principle governing the employment of women should be to secure the advantage of the services of women wherever those servies will best promote the public interest.

No. 80. Women should be eligible for employment in the museums and libraries subject to the above conditions (about salaries).

No. 89. The employment of female typists should be extended.

No. 82. *An inquiry should be held by the Treasury to ascertain the clerical, inspectorial, and administrative positions which should be filled by women and the salaries they should receive.*

Condescension.

The following paragraph appeared last week in the *Yorkshire Post* :—

"During the war, when so many young men are serving their King and their country, some of the vacant bank clerkships in Yorkshire are to be filled by the employment of women. Lady clerkships have been adopted by insurance companies and the plan, it is stated, is likely to lead to the permanent employment of women in the direction indicated. The lady clerks will probably in the outset fill subordinate places at the banks, but their experience may in the end lead to advancements, securing with light and agreeable occupations, salaries commensurate with their abilities."

We are very glad to see the probability of extension of women's work in insurance offices and banks. Those who are familiar with the excellent office work of all sorts now done by women, can afford to smile at the absurdly condescending tone of the writer. Work which has hitherto been done by healthy young men now gone to the war is characterised, when it is to be done by women, as "light and agreeable occupation," and the suggestion conveyed in the last phrase is that the salaries will not be on the same scale as for the equal work done by men. We hope this will be resisted.

A Bad Joke.

It is told of Queen Victoria that on one occasion some of the company were laughing together, and she asked to hear the joke. Dismay appeared on the faces of the laughers, because the joke was unseemly; but the question had to be answered. Whereupon, said the Queen, "We are not amused." This is how progressive women must have felt when they read the sorry little joke which has been going the round of certain newspapers to the effect that an advertisement had appeared in *The Times:* "Wanted—petticoats for all able-bodied youths in this country who have not yet joined the Navy or Army." We express no opinion whatever about the young men who do not volunteer, doubtless they have their reasons—but the innuendo clearly is that they are unmanly—therefore they are to be dressed in women's clothes. No, thank you! An unmanly man is not fit to wear a woman's clothes. It is time men learnt that a strong, capable woman is not necessarily "virile," nor a feeble man woman-like.

Is Sir J. D. Rees an Alien Enemy?

Sir J. D. Rees is priceless! Lest readers should not believe a summary, we quote verbatim a question he asked in the House on August 26th. It runs : "Might I ask why in Clause 1, subsection (1), paragraphs (*b*) and (*c*) (of the Special Constables Bill), special constables are referred to as 'which'? I should imagine it desirable that even in the most serious times, special constables should continue to be of the masculine gender, and I think therefore the word 'whom' should be substituted for the word 'which.'" Is Sir J. D. Rees of German extraction? One thinks he must be, and that he is literally translating "Das Weib welches. . . ."

Mrs. Hills.

Friends of Miss Margaret Robertson will sympathise with her when they hear that her husband, Dr. Hills, has been reported "missing." As eight out of the nine doctors in No. 4 Field Hospital are also missing, it is likely that they stayed behind with their wounded and may have been made prisoners. One hopes that she may in her work for mothers and babes find respite from anxiety.

THE QUEEN'S WORK FOR WOMEN.

Central Committee for Women's Employment.

President: Her Majesty the Queen.
Hon. Sec.: Miss Mary Macarthur, Wimborne House, S.W.
Hon. Treas.: Lady Roxburgh, Foley House, 8, Portland Place, W. (to whom subscriptions and donations should be sent).

This Committee is the first Government Committee there has ever been composed of women only. We hope it will not be long before we can say with precision what it is doing. Last week we gave the names of those on the Committee, and we know they are getting vigorously to work devising schemes and forming sub-committees to carry them out. They are not primarily trying to give work just now, because they are operating on a large scale, and hope to open channels for a mass of women's labour. Besides the invaluable help of Miss Mary Macarthur, they have the best expert advice to command, *e.g.*, Miss Anderson (H.M. principal lady inspector of factories), Miss Clapham (head, women's department, Labour Exchanges), Miss Durham (L.C.C. technical training organiser), Miss Mona Wilson (H.M. Insurance Commission), Sir Geo. Askwith, and Sir Claud Schuster. The commercial advisers will include many well-known representatives of industry.

The dislocation of labour has already caused great misery, even among skilled women. But work can, in time, be found for all good workers, provided they can be removed to places where their work is needed and provided also, in some cases, that some new training can be given, and the women must be kept going meanwhile. For this money is needed, and we hope will be vigorously and fruitfully spent. It is delightful to hear that the first £1,000 was spent a few hours after it was received.

The total of this valuable fund on Wednesday morning was £30,777 2s. The subscriptions have varied from £5,000 each from Lady Strathcona and Mr. W. W. Astor, to 5s. from five servants. Very much more is required and will be well administered. We appeal to all women, and to men, too, to swell this fund with generous subscriptions. A coupon will be found on p. 430.

THE WIFE OF THE ABLE SEAMAN.

"*Let not ambition mock their useful toil,*
Their homely joys and destiny obscure,
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile,
The short and simple annals of the poor."

We should know very little of the able seaman's wife, beyond the fact that she makes a home and rears her little family, were it not for the efforts of a comparatively few individuals. So far, I have been unable to discover that sailors' wives have organised for themselves any association like the Women's Co-operative Guild, nor can I find that any sense of social cohesion yet exists among them. But in naval towns they are drawn together by individuals and by religious communities which provide social gatherings and other help for them. In time of distress, when ships are lost and the women are in trouble and want, these organisations strive to be a true friend and support to them.

As the result of visiting some of those working for sailors' wives, I found the universal testimony of the individual is that they are most delightful women to deal with, in spite of the narrowing effect of small incomes and many carking cares, and the lack of opportunity for enriching the mind that wider spheres provide. The limited income, too, while it makes life difficult, is often shouldered by those who ask little from life if secure of a definite position and a home, and who love to be of service to those who have won their affections. Testimony is given to their patient endurance, the high standard they demand from themselves, and the vigilance many of them keep over their financial position.

At Miss Weston's Royal Sailors' Rest there is a department of work devoted to these women. Every Monday afternoon a meeting is held, attended by 300 to 350 of them. Some bring work, but the features of the gatherings are discussions on the lines of friendly talks and concerts. A crêche is opened on these Mondays, and whenever there is an outing for the mothers, so that they can feel their children are safe while they take a little relaxation. For sailors' wives, also, there is a Temperance Association about 600 strong, and the women have also a Christian Union, which arranges a Bible Study Class weekly. Miss Weston also has an employment office, to which all women have access, and similar work is carried out in connection with the Royal Sailors' Rest at Devonport.

The authorities at the Duchess of Albany's Home have

weekly meetings for the wives of seamen. They are called Women's Pleasant Hours and the average attendance is 400. This community has the W.P.H. meetings at Eastney for the wives of the Marines.

The Salvation Army has an eye also to the welfare of the seaman's mate, and has formed a "Home League" for her. The League meets weekly, some of the inevitable sewing is done, followed by tea and singing. The Army also runs a special Savings Bank for her benefit.

What sources of income has the sailor's wife for whom a Savings Bank is thoughtfully provided? The following is what she can rely on. The Able Seaman gets 14s. a week, and the wife gets no compulsory allotment as in the case of the soldier; moreover, the sailor is restricted from alloting more than 10s. a week to his wife, being compelled to retain at least 4s. for his personal expenses, such as tobacco, serge, flannel, &c., which are stocked for him by the Admiralty. He may also have "rum money," 30s. a year, and "badge money," 1d. a day. An Able Seaman can let his wife have up to 10s. a week:—

(1) By allotment. In this case the man informs the Paymaster of the amount he wants paid regularly each month to his nominee.

(2) By remittance. The man hands over to the paymaster from time to time such sums of money as he wants to send home to his relatives.

Of course, the wife cannot live on even the maximum her husband can send her, and she has to increase the family income by working hard at washing and charing, or in any factories that are at hand. She may also be helped by voluntary associations.

One comment rises quickly in the mind of a Suffragist. How a little political illumination would tend to make these women a power to raise the economic condition of the sailor's family. But they come in their hundreds to these gatherings and are not shown that light.

M. O'Shea.

[*The writer would like to thank the authorities of the various institutions named for their kind assistance and readiness to give information.*]

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BALANCED POWERS.

By An Absurd Philosopher.

If human beings were not such pitiful creatures, the philosophers would not find it necessary to be so absurd.—Goethe.

They all lied atrociously, which did not prevent the rest from crying "Liar!" at the first who was terrified into telling the truth. Each feared a foul blow, and planned another to foil it, in case of necessity. Each prayed devoutly that the necessity would never arise, but they lived in such terror of each other that the distinction between an accident, an incident, and a necessity became very nice. Naturally, the biggest coward struck first, which caused the others to denounce him as a traitor. This involved a number of people in a maelstrom of fire, famine, and carnage, for which they had no manner of responsibility. The aggressor justified himself in language familiar to readers of newspapers in any European language, and the authors of these leading articles (with the exception of those who had written in German) were much shocked. They were all really good, honourable, and kindhearted gentlemen, very well educated, but without sufficient imagination to foresee even the obvious. If you and your next-door neighbour took a blunderbuss in each hand and goose-stepped up and down your respective gardens, shouting insults at each other over the wall, no one would be surprised if one or both of you came to a violent end; but our representatives have been sincerely and personally heartbroken at failing to keep the peace by preparing for war.

The farce would be much funnier if Belgium were not running with blood and fire, if some hundred thousand Englishwomen were not waiting to hear which were the mothers of mangled living and which of shattered dead, and if there were not a pile of mothers' sons and girls' sweethearts fifteen feet high on the ruined harvest fields near Mons, while millions of little children are wailing for bread.

Incidentally, we have the authority of the aforesaid leading articles for saying that brute force rules the world—and quite right too—and that women have no stake in the country.

But it is not the fault of diplomats, not the fault of journalists, it is the fault of every one of us. Each of us individually may be prepared to swear to having been "harmless as a dove." Now is the time to begin to be "wise as a serpent." Up to now more brains have been put into one torpedo than into the whole cause of peace.

Review.

In Defence of What Might Be. By Edmond Holmes. (Constable, 4s. 6d. net.)

At a moment when we believe ourselves to be engaged, to the utmost limits of our endurance, in a struggle for freedom, Mr. Holmes' passionate plea for a free spirit in education is singularly opportune. As the title indicates, it is primarily a vindication of the earlier work ("What is and what might be"), in which Mr. Holmes used a particular school as the base for his attack upon the defects of English education; but the present work is much more than a reply to critics. It is a re-statement of the case for a rational treatment of children, and there is not a teacher, nor a parent, nor anyone who cares for children, that would not be the better for reading it. Those who have not time or inclination to read 376 pages may be recommended to take the first sentence and the last, and try to think out for themselves what lies between; if they do it with sincerity, I feel sure that they will have Mr. Holmes' approval. The first sentence ends with the words, "*the function of education is to foster growth*"; the last, a quotation from Herbart, "*He (the child) must educate himself!*" Those who like controversy will find plenty in between; but whether the battering of the Herbartians, with missiles provided by Herbart himself, fills them with holy joy or horror, whether or no they find some of their cherished idols strewn in fragments, they will do well to recognise that, revolutionary as Mr. Holmes declares himself to be, he is no mere destroyer of idols, but the preacher of a fresh and vital doctrine. What that doctrine is, the words above quoted will suggest. Education, if it is to help instead of hindering human progress, must take a fresh start. We must recognise that until we have set ourselves to find out what children are to begin with, we are not competent to assist in, much less to control, their growing up; and that, by claiming to control their growing up, upon principles and by practices which are not based upon understanding, we are cramping and injuring their characters. A new spirit is needed, and with that new spirit a new system, based not upon a superstitious terror of human nature as something which must at all costs be prevented from breaking out, but upon the certainty that education means the fullest possible development of human nature. The attempt to "mould character" must be abandoned as fatal to the growth of character; not until that has been done will the teacher find his true function as a gardener of souls. Madame Montessori saw this; she did not create a system, but she inspired a revolution which will create it, unless we are blind to the essential need of our race. Read the story of the Baby in the Pincian Gardens (p. 331), and if you do not understand, go on reading it until you do.

To-day our education is on its trial. All honour to the young men who, for the most part stupidly brought up and then selfishly exploited to make money for other people, are crowding into the Army, upon whose spirit and intelligence the freedom of nations greatly depends; what a difference would it make if in calling upon them for this supreme act of devotion we who are responsible could think with a clear conscience of all that we have done with them since they were born!

R. F. Cholmeley.

THE ADA LEWIS HOUSE.

This imposing hostel for women in the New Kent Road has now been open for eighteen months. No woman should visit London without seeing it. It forms a notable feature among the buildings of the locality, just as it marks an epoch in the housing of working women. It is not unrelated to Danton's old dictum, *L'audace, encore l'audace, toujours l'audace*. Sir George Cornewall Lewis has told us in the *Cornhill* how he applied to Mrs. Ada Lewis some years ago and audaciously invited her to build a hostel for women. On her death in 1908 it was found that she had bequeathed her fortune to trustees for this purpose, and the result is this admirable building on the south side of the Thames. It is five storeys high, of red brick with stone dressings, and stands on a site large enough to give it distinction and individuality. One of its most noteworthy features is the size and number of the common-rooms. They include two dining-rooms in the basement, a sewing-room with two sewing-machines, a reading-room with an excellent supply of newspapers and a general sitting-room with grand piano and lounge chairs. There is also an excellent roof garden for the use of inmates, provided with seats, plants, &c. The basement is occupied by dining-rooms, kitchens, servants' quarters, lockers (each inmate is entitled to the use of one on a small payment for keys), cloak-room, box-room, lavatories with excellent supply of hot and cold water, a brushing room for boots and clothes, a capital laundry with six fixed troughs and as many drying cupboards, and four most conveniently fixed footbaths.

On the next floor are the general sitting-rooms, seven superior bedrooms for inmates and the superintendent's quarters. The remaining three floors are taken up with bedrooms, single and double, numbering nearly 200, every one of which has a window under the inmate's control, spacious corridors, bathrooms, lavatories, and housemaid's cupboard at each end. The rules have been reduced to a minimum, and though the House is closed nightly at 11, permission can be obtained to stay out longer. The building is of the ultra modern kind, all steel, concrete, tubes, light; it is certain that dirt and fire will find small purchase in it. It is not a world built for them to bustle in. The House is both a residence for regular inmates and a hotel for business women visitors. The former naturally get the choice rooms, the extraordinarily low price

of the rooms tending to make continuous residence desirable. Each has the minimum of furniture; the beds are good and comfortable.

The building is heated centrally and lighted by electricity. All staircases are lined with cream glazed tiles; the common rooms have coloured tiles, green, reddish-brown, &c., up to the ceiling. Each is distinguished by the complete absence of small trashy ornaments, for which the inmates can never be sufficiently grateful. The building is in the hands of trustees, whose chairman, Mr. Lewis, is the brother of the founder. A lady superintendent and her assistant reside on the premises; there is a staff of fourteen servants. For a single room the price is 6d. per night or 3s. weekly; for a double room, 10d. or 5s. All rooms and bookings are paid in advance including hot baths. For these the charge is nominal, 1d., including soap and towel. Naturally the single rooms have very little space, but the double ones, which are most in demand, have often the inmate's own belongings, pictures, flowers, and so forth, and are often quite charming. The management are considering an inclusive charge for board. All food is paid for at the hatch on ordering, and the prices are very reasonable. It should be understood that the building is for the use of all classes. Amongst them the writer found missionaries, nurses, typewriters, teachers, writers, organizers, shopgirls, clerks. In the Ada Lewis House inmates suffer neither from the fussy and interfering landlady nor yet the negligent one whose main preoccupation is to collect the weekly rental without attending to the comfort and cleanliness of her guest. The order and life of this great housing experiment proceed on other lines; the trustees are fully alive to the fact that women who have made and are making great sacrifices for liberty and independence cannot curtail them more than is necessary for the general well-being and comfort. People on the north side of the Thames are apt to think the south side is out of all reasonable bounds. The writer, who had a pleasant visit of several weeks to the Ada Lewis House, found it astonishingly convenient. For a penny one can be carried to Westminster, Charing Cross, Waterloo, Blackfriars, &c., and the service includes trams, buses, tubes. It would be difficult for business women to find a situation more convenient and more economical of time and money.

C. S. B.

Correspondence.

SHARING MEN'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

Madam,—There are many women like myself who feel they cannot urge men to enlist, when some men have mothers, sisters or families depending on them, or whose wives would be reduced on their enlistment from a comfortable position to one of comparative penury. Now if we have no men of our own to encourage and send, can we not enlist too—as voluntary sharers of the men's responsibilities in their absence. If women all over the country who could undertake to help one such family or dependent would enrol their names and send them to the recruiting offices, any recruit who would like to feel a responsible friend was in touch with those whom he left could communicate with one of these volunteers, or go and see her before he left. I think that the women who will do this should be willing to help as if the mother or wife left were their own relation, and should take up the responsibility as their country's call of duty to them. Just as the country calls on the men to fight, she calls on the women to bring up and care for those whom they leave behind.

It is not by presenting men with white feathers that we shall lead them to enlist, but by acknowledging that it *does* cost something to take your life in your hand, and by standing forward to share the burden as far as we can.

B. F. Milner.

ANOTHER PIECE OF WOMAN'S WORK.

Madam,—A handful of ladies have started a Soldiers' Rest in Scarboro' in the Foreshore Road. Hours from 6-10 p.m. The premises have been lent. Reading, smoking, and recreation rooms, a place where the men can wash (much appreciated), pens and paper, periodicals and games, cups of coffee and buns at ½d. each are provided, also a piano so that they can play for themselves and sing their own songs. Hymns are sung and a short prayer is offered for those at the front. A copy of the gospel of St. John is given to those who ask for it.

There are surely many other towns, where no provision of this kind has been made as yet for the large number of men and boys (recruits) passing through, to whom this simple kindness would make all the difference.

E. Barker.

CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN.

Madam,—With regard to the article in The Common Cause on the subject of "Winter Clothing for Children," may I suggest that excellent patterns of simple garments are to be had through Miss Macmillan, at Evelyn Street, Deptford. I have heard that another Society is using these patterns.

M. E. L. Hare.

Madam,—May I make a few suggestions arising out of Mrs. Ward's excellent article in The Common Cause on "Winter Clothing for School Children"?

1. That the Union should bring to the notice of its Societies the most excellent book "Simple Garments for Children," by Miss Synge, Longman's, 3s. 6d., which contains excellent patterns cut for children of varying ages in the most economical manner, with very educational advice on the general question of children's outfits, all carefully and practically set forth.

2. That special consideration should be given for the provision of boots, as this is the part of the child's outfit where the need will be the greatest and the provision forthcoming the least.

3. That all distributions of clothing and boots should be made through the Children's School Care Committees.

(Miss) Mary Bereton.
(Member of the L.C.C. Education Committee.)

GERMAN BOOKS.

Madam,—I notice that the Lord Mayor of Newcastle is appealing for German books for his German prisoners. German books will probably be very welcome in many prisons now.

Maud Keary.

WOMEN AS BANK CLERKS.

Madam,—The letter which one of the large Joint Stock Banks circulated last week and which found its way into *The Express* (Saturday, August 29th), suggests an inconvenience probably felt by all large banks. I mean a great shortage of clerks owing to the numbers who have volunteered for military service.

Side by side with this condition, we find many women and girls, who owing to various circumstances, caused by the war, have been thrown out of employment. These may be found willing and able to do the work of the junior staff of the banks, and thus it might be made easier to spare more able bodied and eager men for the service of their country. I would suggest that women might be enlisted into the banks on such terms as "During the War," or as long as the Boards shall require them.

A Bank Manager's Wife.

NURSERY TRAINING SCHOOL: AN OFFER.

Madam,—In this National Crisis everyone is anxious to help according to his ability. The Committee of the Nursery Training School has therefore decided to offer a free place to one student and one baby—children of officers or men serving their country. The student, who must be at least sixteen years old, will receive a year's training in all departments of nursery work, which will enable her to earn her living as a children's nurse. At present the demand for a trained children's nurse is largely in excess of the supply. The baby will receive the best attention and care under medical supervision; preference will be given to a healthy child of a month old. References will be required in each case.

The School was founded in 1911 by the Women's Industrial Council under the medical supervision of Dr. Eric Pritchard. Full particulars can be obtained on application at the School, 4, King Edward Road, Hackney, London, N.E.

Elsie M. Zimmern.
(Hon. Sec. Nursery Training School.)

BISHOP CREIGHTON HOUSE.

Madam,—At a time when many ladies are thinking of coming to London to help in relief work, it may be of use to some to know that Bishop Creighton House, a Church of England Settlement in Fulham, has a few vacancies for residents after September 7th. As the Settlement is one of the institutions which have been asked by the Local Government Board to co-operate with it in inquiring into the existence of exceptional distress, residents may be sure of being brought into touch with very interesting and important work. Application should be made to Miss Wickham, 378, Lillie Road, Fulham. Residents' fees are 25s. a week, or £15 a quarter if paid in advance.

Margaret Becker.

THE HAPPY WARRIOR.

Madam,—As at this time so many people are looking through their Wordsworth for the "Happy Warrior," I think it is interesting to point out that if we substitute the word "Woman" for that of "Warrior" all through the poem, we shall find that the noble qualities Wordsworth attributed to his ideal man at arms are equally characteristic of the ideal woman.

Treated in this way, the poem might appropriately end:—

"This is the happy woman, this is she,
Whom every maid and wife would wish to be."

M. E. Webster.

Mrs. Guthrie writes to remind readers that among those who are suffering badly and at once are artists of every kind, and with them of course, colourmen and frame-makers. These artists, she says, have no funds and no society to fall back upon.

Adapted from "LYRICS FROM THE CHINESE." (Written 675 B.C.)

By Helen Waddell.

I would have gone to my lord in his need,
Have galloped there all the way;
But this is a matter concerns the State,
And I, being a woman, must stay.

I watched them leaving the Palace yard,
In carriage and robe of state.
I would have gone by the hills and the fords;
I know they will come too late.

I may walk in the garden and gather
Lilies of mother-of-pearl.
I had a plan would have saved the State—
But mine are thoughts of a girl.

The Elder Statesmen sit on the mat,
And wrangle through half the day;
A hundred plans they have drafted and dropped,
And mine was the only way.

Workers.

The car was waiting at the door, ready to take the Hon. Muriel Arnold to the offices of the Society that had been temporarily re-organised for the relief of distress. Lady Arnold came out with her daughter into the clear morning sunshine. The girl was young, gay, and graceful, with a full measure of that unconscious pride which accompanies the continual acceptance of service for which one renders no return. Her mother was of a different type—for she had ministered to others since her childhood, until ministry had become a habit. Her face was beautiful, because of its quiet strength and serene peace.

Lady Arnold held out her hand in greeting to her daughter's friend, who was waiting in the car.

"Aren't you coming, too?" the girl asked brightly, misunderstanding the nature of the elder woman's calm, "or are you going to make shirts?"

Lady Arnold responded to the bright look. "My work just now is to help people keep their heads," she said, and her smile robbed the words of all sting. "I find plenty to do."

"How can you be so restful! Everything is so exciting!" The girl's face changed suddenly. "It is terrible, isn't it?" she added. "But we are doing what we can."

The elder woman looked at her gravely without replying, then turned to her daughter.

"Have you heard from Edith Webster lately?" she asked, in her quiet voice.

"Edith——" Muriel repeated, in a tone of surprise. "No—not for ages."

In these busy days Muriel had almost forgotten even the name of the one who had been her friend at school. Schooldays belonged to the dim, dim past. Muriel's father had risen rapidly since then. Edith's father had died penniless. The girls had not met for a long while. But Muriel's mother never forgot a friend, and during the past tragic days she had been thinking of many less fortunately placed than herself.

"I should like you to find out where she is," she said. Then the footman closed the door, and the car glided smoothly and swiftly down the avenue.

"I wonder what made mother suddenly think of Edith?" Muriel said, as the car went westward.

"Didn't she get some poor sort of a job somewhere?" her friend asked, with a supreme ignorance of everything relating to "jobs."

"Yes. A clerkship, I think. It was awfully rough on her. But they were left without anything. It's frightfully poor pay, I expect." Then her voice suddenly changed to one of excited interest. "More soldiers. Oh—look—aren't those horses just beauties! Doesn't it seem a shame to use them? . . . Here we are. Now for a hard day's work. What time shall we finish? It's no good letting Collins come early, is it? but I must be home to dinner to-night. Ted's coming. I don't want to miss him. Shall we say half-past six? It was so awfully late yesterday. Half-past six, Collins."

And the two girls went in to start their hard day's work together.

* * * * *

Edith Webster stood in front of the glass in their one small room, putting on her hat. The room was comfortless and overcrowded; its only outlook was upon high tenement buildings, below which ceaseless traffic thundered all day long, and far into the night. Mrs. Webster stood watching her—hopeless, drab, unbeautiful; for poverty and sickness had taken all the color out of life for her.

"Well—I hope you will get something. It was an awful shame to turn you all off like that," she said for the twentieth time.

"They couldn't help it, if they couldn't get the work," Edith said, persistently patient, smoothing her thick brown hair—the hair from which the beautiful gloss had been robbed by poor living "There are so many new things going, I ought to be able to get something," she added, still optimistic, though her head ached, her limbs seemed weighted, and the shadow of despair darkened her eyes.

Edith knew she was only one sufferer among thousands, but that fact did not make her lot any easier. What could she and her mother have saved out of her fifteen shillings a week? she sometimes asked herself. In their schooldays Muriel Arnold and Edith Webster had sat side by side. Edith had never asked herself how Muriel would have kept herself and her mother on fifteen shillings a week. That would have been, she thought, beyond the range of possibilities.

"I will go to the Bureau," she said. "They may be able to tell me of something there. Don't bother about me. I may have to stay out late. I have some bread and butter. Plums are cheap, so I'll get a pennyworth and have them in the park. One doesn't want so much dinner when one has the open air and a view," she added with a tired smile.

Then she kissed her mother, and went on her way, in search of work—work to enable them both to live

But she met with no success. Everywhere she heard the same story. "No work to be had. Hundreds of clerks are being turned off. No chance of fresh posts now."

"But there is so much clerical work being done," Edith said at last, hunger calling up her courage to protest to the busy woman who had far too much to do to attend to her or her needs.

"But it's all voluntary work," the woman said quickly, and turned to the next inquirer.

All through the day Edith continued her weary search. She met many who were, like herself, seeking work; many worse off than herself, for they had children depending upon them; some worse off still, for they had not her Anchor, and temptation waited near by where starvation threatened.

The evening found her faint, hungry, dispirited. She felt vaguely that she had never before known what weariness was. She would make one last effort before going home. In the office of the big society a lady met her with kindly sympathy and understanding interest. All day this woman had been busy, using her wonderful talents without stint; she still had leisure to speak kindly to the tired girl.

"Will you sit down a minute?" she said, and her sweet, musical voice was rest to Edith, after the jarring notes of the day. "Do you want to help? Can you do voluntary work?"

For a moment Edith lost sight of the room and the kindly face. There seemed no place for her anywhere. With an effort she spoke. "No. I have to earn my living. . . . I . . . There seems to be no room. . . ."

"Ah," the lady said quickly. "I know all sorts of workers are wanted: but this is very wrong. We are trying now to prevent the added distress caused by unfair volunteering. May I have your name and address? I will do my best, and will let you know."

Edith went out once more into the evening light. She was too tired to notice the sunset glory, too worn out to see any ray of hope. A car was waiting outside, and as she paused two girls came down the steps. Edith suddenly recognised her old friend. She would have turned away, but the recognition had been mutual. Muriel held out her hand, with a bright, careless smile.

"Hullo, Edith! Mother was asking about you this morning: telepathy—or something. I'm awfully pleased to see you. What ages since we met! Are you busy now?"

Edith's pride, which was far greater than Muriel's, for it was of a different character, made her voice steady. "Not very, just now," she said calmly, feeling she would rather starve than that this girl should know of her poverty.

"We have been working like niggers. Never worked like it in our lives. I *am* so tired. I mustn't wait, but do come and see me soon. . . . Home, Collins. Mind you send me a line. I have learned what work is like. You once said I ought to. Good-bye." She waved her hand, then turned to speak to her friend in the car, and Edith was left alone. Suddenly, her self-control gave way, and she spoke bitterly.

"Know what work is! Ah—you don't! You never will. It'll never be more than play to you. And you'll never, never know the meaning of hunger or despair."

The noise of the engine as the car was started drowned the low, weary voice. But perhaps the Watchers and the Holy Ones heard and understood.

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Our Active Service League.

"I do not think it is the function of men or women to lecture each other on the special duties of the opposite sex. These duties are sufficiently obvious."—Mrs. Fawcett, *Manchester Guardian*, September 4th, 1914.

Our Active Service League owed its inception to Mrs. Harley, and was the outcome of the great Suffrage Pilgrimage of 1913. Mrs. Harley had found so many willing and enthusiastic pilgrims anxious to do service for the Suffrage Cause, that she suggested to the National Union Council early in 1914 that a permanent league should be formed of members of the National Union willing to do open-air work. The idea was well taken up, and much was done in the spring and summer of this year. There was, notably, the Camp at Weymouth, of which readers of this paper have read a good deal and which was visited by as many as 1,050 people in one day. Then came the outbreak of war, and it was decided that the whole energies of the A.S.L. should be turned to relief of suffering. It was hoped that those who had the uniform, so eminently practical and businesslike and yet not in the least odd, would now wear it whenever they were at work, as a silent witness that all they did was, indeed (as all good work must be), work of emancipation. It was hoped that others, when they had to get clothes, would get the green uniform and so make the Union more widely known, and loved as its members love it.

In her admirable letter to the *Manchester Guardian*, of September 4th, Mrs. Fawcett outlined the kinds of work that women will be doing, because it falls more especially into their department of offering nurture and succour to life. She divides this work into:—

(1) Doctoring and nursing.
(2) Care of the young womanhood of the nation.
(3) Care of children.
(4) Care of child-bearing women.

These four heads cover broadly the special volunteer work with which our Active Service League has been busy. We saw recently an advertisement which began, "Women are wondering what they can do to help!" The Active Service League is not "wondering" at all. It got to work instantly; it mobilised the women's forces, and we doubt if there is a member who is not at the present moment considerably overworked. Competent, conscientious women, who can be relied on to do what is wanted and stick at it, are not feeling themselves "superfluous women." On the contrary, many of them wish they had "Briareus' hands and Argus eyes"; each wishes she were twenty women and not one, for she sees so much that wants doing.

Many of our members are doctors and nurses. Some have gone to the front, and thousands are working at home for the Red Cross. Others, again, are deeply immersed in Care Committee work, by which help and advice is given to the children upon whom the future depends. From our shop in Parliament Street scores of workers have been dispatched for this work alone. Then there is the care of children under school age, and the safe-guarding of the mother's health, which has been so

long the special concern of the Women's Co-operative Guild; our people will be working in many places in close co-operation with them for the furtherance of the Local Government Board's Maternity Scheme. Rescue Work, Girls' Clubs, Welfare Work for Factory Workers, all these activities engage the attention of our members, and in great centres like Liverpool and Manchester, Hull and Newcastle, and Bradford, they are among the best organised and the most capable helpers. In London the care of refugees has been very urgent. This is womanly work. This is work we can do and want to do. And now comes an appeal to women to do something else. They are asked to help recruit men for the army. We hold that by doing our duty we help men do theirs. We hold that if we care for the home and mind the nation's babies, and if we work, as far as we are trained and able, in shop and factory and office and school; if we go about our business steadfastly and "speak no evil, no, nor listen to it," even though that evil be said of the enemy; if we do our own duty, it is enough. We are sick to death, we Suffragists, of being told by men what we may do—ought to do—what is "womanly!" In the name of commonsense let us not now copy the folly and set out to tell men what they may do and ought to do—what is "manly!" They know in their hearts what is manly, just as we know what is womanly, and if they see us going about our business we may trust them to go about theirs. Who are we, to decide whether a man should or should not leave all and go to the front? This itch to be for ever laying down the law for others to obey is no part of right Suffragist principles.

So we are sorry to see that a movement, expounded by the Baroness Orczy in the *Daily Mail* should have been given the name of our league. Of course, the Baroness cannot have known that we had adopted the name months ago, and she will now doubtless select some other. Her suggestion is that women and girls should pledge themselves to persuade every man of their acquaintance to offer his services to the country, and also "never to be seen in public with any man who, being in every way fit and free for service, has refused to respond to his country's call." There is no way by which a woman could satisfy herself of these intimate details except by a hateful inquisition which she can have no right to make.

Let women do their utmost to take the place of men who go to the front; let them use every endeavour to secure that the State shall pay these men a wage which will suffice to keep the home together. By these means they will make recruiting possible, and let them leave the rest to the free conscience of free men. So may they hope that these men, in turn, will desire to see them free women.

Eking-out the Food Supply, etc.

No. III.—Various Produce.

Several weeks having now gone by since war was first declared, the position as to the food supply has cleared to some extent. Even the most nervous must now see that we are not faced with immediate starvation, and a lady who devised a plan for growing a succession of lettuces in her London window-box has probably discovered, on cool reflection, that she would not have added greatly to the general stock, or even saved her own purse, by this method. None the less, it behoves us to think what is the best to be done in the face of the fact that all ordinary trading is disorganised, and many sources of supply will be altered. I advisedly say "altered" instead of lost. What we lose from Germany, or what France, Belgium, and, to some extent, Holland, are unable to send, owing to war conditions, we find that other nations are eager to supply. It is possible that in directions where we expected scarcity, there may be occasional gluts. Therefore, it needs consideration to secure that what we take special action to provide for ourselves shall be of a nature to be really useful; not only immediately, but with a view to after years. We will briefly enumerate some of those directions in which effort should be made, and then consider them as far as space permits. It is certain that we shall need eggs; that as much live-stock should be fed and reared as possible; that horses especially will be needed; that trees should be planted to replace those it has been necessary, or will be necessary, to cut down. Bees should be increased as far as possible, and every care taken to preserve old stocks.

It is thought by commercial men that, even if the war ends quite soon, it would be two years before the sugar supply regained normal conditions. Therefore, it may be necessary to use honey for sweetening purposes, as used to be done before the introduction of sugar. This could be managed to a great extent.

With regard to eggs, it is being advised everywhere that all pullets of 1913 or 1914 should be kept, and fed so as to induce them to start laying as soon as possible. Of the extra eggs thus procured, not all must be eaten, but provision made to breed from when the right time comes. Not only shall we need the chicks, but if France and Belgium are at peace by the spring, they will want eggs or young birds to make good their losses. Cockerels and older birds only should be killed now. It may be observed, by the way, that quite old hens make excellent eating if cooked in suitable ways.

The stock of poultry, generally, must be fed in less expensive and on more old-fashioned methods for a time, and should be let rove over stubble, disused garden ground, orchards, or fields, where possible during the day-time. Laying hens must be better fed than others, and confined, at any rate till their daily task of laying is performed. No opportunity must be given for laying in hedgerows, where the eggs are seldom found by the legitimate owners.

Of cattle, sheep, and pigs, as many should be reared as possible—fewer sent young to the butchers. Estate owners should see to it that this is done.

Every mare fit to breed from should be mated. It will be the lighter type of horses that we shall need most. The number of draught-horses commandeered has been small in comparison to those for riding, and the losses of these heavier horses will be fewer, since they are not so much exposed to the enemy's fire.

With regard to trees, I want to point out that some of the waste land, of which I said that it was unfit for vegetable growing, can well be utilised for trees. In the "Black Country" of the Midlands there are acres of slag-covered ground about mouths of worked-out pits, which are being rendered green and (gradually) fertile by the planting of trees. The kinds used are silver birch, hornbeam, and alder. Damp spots and even marshy places can be planted with willows for basket making. The right kinds to use are *Salix purpurea*, *Salix triandra*, or *Salix vimenosa*, or hybrids of these.

At any time a profit can be made of these osiers, but soon there will be a larger demand, since we have imported so many of our lighter makes of basket from Germany. There is no reason why we should not make them at home; the principal reasons that Germany has gained a footing in that line are, first, that the baskets were infinitely cheaper than home-made ones, and, next, that for ornamental basket-work so much more taste has been displayed. English fancy baskets are nearly always too solid, heavy, and wanting in grace and novelty.

To return to the subject of meat-producing stock, it may become necessary to restrict the quantity of meat eaten, either by Government regulations to prevent serious depletion of stock; or, should it become very dear, for private reasons of economy. It is not wise for those accustomed to meat-eating suddenly to adopt an entirely vegetarian diet. Personally, I never think it wise, but, under the circumstances referred to it would be less wise than ever, because a sufficiency of eggs, milk, or cheese might not be available to add to the nourishing quality of the vegetables, or to use them might cause the dishes so composed to cost as much as meat. The best plan would be to have a dish of meat one day, and on the next vegetables cooked with the stock from that meat instead of water.

Space has not permitted details, but I shall be willing to furnish them if required.

Edith L. Chamberlain, F.R.H.S.

ECONOMICAL RECIPES.

A subscriber asks us to print one or two recipes for good, thick vegetable soups. We comply with much pleasure.

Pea, Lentil, or Haricot Bean Soup.—Soak the pulse (one pint) for some hours in water. Slice an onion, a carrot, a turnip, and two pieces of celery, and fry them a golden-brown. Put them all together with a quart of water, and simmer until the pulse is very tender. Pass through a sieve. Pepper and salt to taste. Add a little thickening made with flour and milk, and boil up.

Soubise.—Boil a cauliflower until tender in salted water, and strain the liquor carefully into a bowl. Slice and fry a few onions. Brown some crusts lightly in a slack oven. Add these to the cauliflower-water, and simmer for a quarter of an hour. Beat well with a fork or pass through a sieve. Just before serving, break a few little pieces of the boiled cauliflower and strew them in the soup.

Panada.—Make a vegetable stock by simmering three onions, three carrots, one turnip, a few sticks of celery (first sliced and lightly fried) in a quart of water. Strain away the vegetables (reserving them for a purée). Slice some stale crusts, and boil them till tender in the stock. Pass through a sieve, and return to the saucepan. Salt and pepper to taste. Whip two eggs to a light froth, and beat quickly into the boiling soup, so as to "crack" them. Care must be taken that this soup does not catch at the bottom of the pan.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

The Shop.

At 50, Parliament Street, the registering of volunteer workers goes on, and people are sent on to those who can make good use of them. The small workroom is occupied by women who are looking for a permanent job, and who are temporarily occupied at a rate of 3d. per hour, while they go daily to the Labour Exchange, and it is hoped that by and bye they will get regular work again. It is obvious that a contrivance of this sort can only be for tiding people over a difficult time. The National Union is not adapted to running clothing factories, nor to marketing the finished product. It is necessary to explain this since a very misleading reference was made to this workroom in an article which appeared in the *New Statesman* last week.

Miss Griffith Jones, who has been in charge of the shop, begs that any ladies who want material made up will send it to the workroom at 50, Parliament Street. As a result of an article in the *Times*, calling attention to the injury done to poor women by ladies who flood the market with voluntary work, a quantity of material was sent to the shop and the working party has been able to keep going as a consequence.

Hyde Park Meetings.

Last Sunday a very good crowd assembled and listened appreciatively to Mrs. Whalley, who urged upon her hearers that women were able and willing to do their share of the necessary work of the country. Owing to some mistake, the Chairman did not turn up, and Miss Jetley, of the Information Bureau, pluckily undertook to preside, and made a maiden speech which caused some of her hearers to resolve that they would hear further from her.

Anyone willing to sell THE COMMON CAUSE outside the Park, from 2.30 to 3.30, or to get Friends' Cards signed at the meeting, should communicate with Mrs. Ronald Garrett at the office.

The Hon. Secretary.

Miss Courtney went for a short holiday on August 29th, and it is hoped that she will stay away for another week at least. Since the outbreak of war she has been at work for more hours than one likes to think.

"The Common Cause."

Several people who are too busy to sell in the street have thought of a good way to push the paper. They have subscribed for a considerable number of copies a week to be sent regularly (this should be done through the local newsagent), and they are giving or selling them at work parties, committees, or at any place where they would be acceptable.

It is suggested that members of the National Union should send the paper to hospitals, convalescent homes, &c. It would be of interest if people doing this would kindly notify to the office that they are doing so, otherwise we might not know how much help we were getting.

Volunteers for street selling are being enrolled at the shop, and at THE COMMON CAUSE office. A list of suitable pitches is ready at each place, and sellers are coming in well.

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Mrs. C. P. Lefroy	1	1	0
Mrs. Cecil Hunt	1	0	0
Mrs. Alfred Hill	1	0	0
Miss Mary L. Breay	2	0	0
Miss Margaret L. Greg	2	0	0
Miss F. M. Beaumont		5	0
Miss Janet Robertson	1	1	0
Miss K. C. Hodson	2	0	0
Miss Emma Newbigin	1	1	0
Miss G. Magee		2	6
Mrs. L. Jopling Rowe	1	1	0
Mrs. Davidson		10	6
Mrs. Hugh Thompson	5	0	0
Miss Leaf		5	0
At 50, Parliament Street—			
Miss Bragg		2	6
Miss Atkinson		2	0
Miss Fullwood		2	6
Miss L. G. Mason		10	0
Mr. G. J. Rogers		2	0
Miss Johnson		10	0
Mrs. Parker Smith		2	6
Anonymous		13	7
Mrs. Edith Davidson	1	0	0
Mrs. Courtney	9	0	0
Miss A. D. Courtney	2	0	0
Miss M. L. Mackenzie	2	0	0
At 50, Parliament Street—			
Anonymous		6	2
Miss Helen Rush		10	0
Miss Ruby Saint	1	0	0
Mrs. Jessie Purdie	10	0	0
Dr. May Thorne		3	6
Mrs. Saveraux		5	6
Mr. George Hicks	1	1	0
Miss Rosanna Powell		5	0
Miss L. Marshall	20	0	0
A Friend	20	0	0
Miss Gertrude Mann		2	6
Mrs. Gillie	1	0	0
Miss Mary E. Jeremy		5	0
Miss L. M. Cleaver		2	6
Mr. Alfred S. Murdoch	1	1	0
Mrs. Edward Smithson	3	0	0
Miss Kathleen Bell	1	0	0
Miss J. D. Candler		8	0
Mrs. E. J. Postelthwaite ...		1	0
Mrs. Pratchett		5	0
Miss Margaret Gardiner ...	1	1	0
Miss Hope Rea	1	1	0
Mrs. Gandy (1st instalment) ...	3	0	0
Mrs. L. G. Rose-Innes	1	0	0
Miss L. W. Clibran	1	1	0
Miss Hankes	1	0	0
Mrs. G. Green		2	0
Miss Hilda M. Martin	1	0	0
Miss Mary Payne	4	0	0
Miss Margaret Puller	1	1	0
Miss D. Tarrant	1	0	0
Miss Yatman		10	0
Anonymous	1	0	0
Anonymous	1	0	0
At 50, Parliament Street—			
Miss Stevenson	2	0	0
Mr. W. Evans	1	0	0
Miss C. H. Dhore		10	0
Anonymous	3	7	0
Miss Helen Spence	10	0	0
Miss Miller	1	0	0
General Sir Desmond O'Callaghan, K.C.V.O. ...		10	0
Miss C. Robinson	2	0	0
Miss M. C. Ford Smith ...		10	0
Mrs. Charles Thompson ...	1	0	0
Mrs. M. A. Gill		5	0
Miss Elworthy	2	0	0
Miss F. M. Cooke		10	0
Mrs. S. Renton		5	0
Mrs. Honor Gibb	2	0	0
Mrs. F. M. Kirby		10	0
Miss Sheavyn	1	10	0
Mrs. E. M. Mason		5	0
Miss Pumphrey		5	0
Camberley and District W.S.S.	5	0	0
Mrs. Smythe		2	0
Mrs. M. McLennan		2	0
Mrs. Joshua	1	1	0
Miss A. Maude Royden ...	10	0	0
Mrs. Marriott Smith		10	0
Miss Agnes McD. Teacher ...	5	0	0
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Miss Pankhurst at the Opera House.

We publish a report of Miss Pankhurst's first speech after her return to London. We think it of interest that our readers should know what she said to a very large and very enthusiastic meeting, composed of about two-thirds women and one-third men of obvious militant sympathies.

Miss Pankhurst made her first re-appearance before a London audience at the Opera House on Tuesday night, September 8th. The house was crowded in every part by an audience of men and women, and great enthusiasm was shown.

Why We Are Fighting.

Miss Pankhurst said that, as militant women, they might be able to rouse the spirit of militancy in men. There were times and seasons when, for the sake of peace, there must be fighting. Politicians were now saying that the people must be educated in the causes of the war in which the country was actually engaged. The people! Not only "politically incapable women," but men! We were said to be fighting for the neutrality of Belgium. That was true, and the indifference some people showed to this was akin to the indifference they showed to free speech and a free press. That little country had fought without considering whether it was going to be successful or not. We were fighting for France too. France cared more, according to Von Bülow, for psychic than for material things. If this were so, we must maintain her. But we were also fighting for ourselves, because Germany was hewing her way through Belgium and France to us.

Some people said we were not fighting the German people, but you could not distinguish between the German Government and the German people, any more than you could distinguish between the British Government and the men who kept that Government in power. From the point of view of women, German rule would be a calamity. Democratic Government was at stake—"I mean democratic Government for men!" (A man's voice: "We haven't got it!") "You *ought* to have it! (Cheers.) You would if you were cleverer! (Cheers.) Wait till women get the vote! They'll show you!" (Loud cheers.)

What of Russia?

The thought at the back of men's minds was, "What of Russia?" It was good tactics to make them so afraid of a remote enemy that they ceased to fear an immediate one. Women, too, had been frightened so. It amazed her to hear Englishmen wonder whether they were to be swallowed by Germany or by Russia. As a woman, she had more fear of Germany than of Russia; more hope for Russia than for Germany. They talked of Russian coercion! Before any Englishman talked of coercion, let him remember his own offence to Englishwomen, and let him expiate that offence. It was not for this country, which had coerced women rather than enfranchise them, to be so pious about Russia.

War for Peace.

To those who said women should stand for peace, she would reply that men too should stand for peace. She was not sure they ever would till women helped them. But submission to brute force would be the greatest victory for war that war had ever had. "I agree with the Prime Minister—(loud and prolonged laughter and cheers)—and I hope in the future he will never again disagree with us—that we cannot stand aside and see brutality conquer freedom. We will in future settle disputes by reason and mutual concession. But you can't have peace between two people unless both desire peace."

Preparation.

We had been called an insular nation, and our rulers had done their best to keep us insular; but this war was going to break down our insularity. We should have better foreign politics when we knew more of other countries. Then we should not be in the position of having to be "educated" at the thirteenth hour in "what the war is about." Some people held that we could not afford to prepare for war. But we could not afford these tragedies. We must insure against them; there must be less luxury, less difference between the rich and the poor. Now that men were wanted for war, the cry was, "What of wife and children?" How long had women asked that women should have economic independence? Why should the wife be a drag upon her country? Why had not every women a trade, so that she could step into her husband's place? "I should like to see everyone of us put upon a food allowance, like soldiers. Why should some eat much, and some nothing? Should we not feel happier if food and shelter were guaranteed to everybody? There are no class distinctions at the front; why at home?"

The Work of Women.

Women were just as ready as men to do what was necessary for the country. If they did not fight, that argued no inferiority, but merely that each did what was in the interests of the whole that each should do. For everyone who fought, there must be a large number of non-combatants to support him. In England they were not using the powers of women. In France the women were keeping the country going; it was they alone who prevented the collapse of the nation while the men were at the front. Women were patriotic. "You will never coerce patriotism out of Suffragettes. We do not identify our country with politicians, but with something great! With ourselves!" Greece and Rome had fallen. They had slavery and the subjection of women. No wonder they fell! But the British Empire would not fall; it was being re-born. "How do we know that? By the life in the women! Is a country dying that has live women in it? Coming back to London after two and a half years, what strikes me? The women! The young women! I cannot believe the young men will not rise to them."

Women's Sympathy.

Happy were those, privileged above all men and women, who could exchange their life for something more precious than life and more valuable than themselves. "I think the most awful torture that can visit us is the thought, 'I might have done more.' Some of you have thought the time would never come when you could do some great task." There were none who would more understand, sympathise with, and support the men who fought than the Suffragettes. "We can tell you things that will strengthen you." Now was the time when the price of peace was being paid. When the price had been paid and victory won, let men see to it that women got their citizenship. Let the war sweep away all the old folly and jealousy and injustice which had placed men and women in two hostile camps. "Women are a strength to the country now! They always have been! If you keep us back, we hinder you."

France and Belgium were paying in blood and tears for our mistakes. But if they had learned to put all the moral and mental and physical forces to back the nation, then that sacrifice would not have been in vain.

The National Anthems of the allied nations were all played, and a collection was taken up in aid of the refugees from France and Belgium and of Queen Mary's Fund for Working Women.

AMERICAN WOMEN PROTEST AGAINST WAR.

On Saturday week, American women in New York held a demonstration of protest against war. *The Times* correspondent writes:—

"Garbed in black and to the beat of muffled drums the women of many nationalities, including those of the five great warring nations, marched down Fifth Avenue this afternoon in a silent protest against the war. The demonstration was unparalleled in the absence of the usual devices to appeal to spectators. The only flag carried was a white standard at the head of the procession bearing the dove of peace. The only music was furnished by the funeral thud of drumsticks.

Women refugees had a division to themselves, and a squadron of automobiles carried mothers with babies and women too old to march."

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News from the Societies and Federations.

Scottish Federation General Report.

The Societies in the Scottish Federation have responded well to the new call on their energy and patriotism. Thirteen have offered their corporate services to the Provosts of their respective towns, and of these eight have secured representation on the local Relief Committee. (The majority have two or more members, but one of the youngest Societies, Motherwell—has no less than five.) Thirteen are organising special work parties, and are endeavouring also to give paid work to unemployed women and girls where possible. Seven have already given donations either to the National Relief Fund or other special objects—*e.g.*, Kirkwall to the Emergency Naval Hospital there, and Greenock to the local Red Cross.

Five Societies (EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, DUNDEE, KILMARNOCK, and SHETLAND) are organising Registration Bureaux to direct voluntary effort into the right channels, and by thus controlling unpaid work to safeguard the paid labour market. Three (EDINBURGH, SHETLAND, and HADDINGTON) have arranged or are arranging Ambulance, Nursing, and Cookery classes, while SHETLAND with its corps of emergency helpers has taken up Red Cross work for the district. It is gratifying to note that their efforts have been recognised by the Rear-Admiral of the Fleet in their neighbourhood, and by the doctor of H.M.S. "Crescent," who approved highly of the preparatory work done.

A scheme for cheap restaurants has been elaborated by PEEBLES Society, which it is hoped will be widely approved and accepted by other Societies. Many Societies, though unable for various reasons to take immediate action, have intimated their willingness to take up corporately any work which time may show to be most necessary in their own locality.

Edinburgh Registration Bureau.

The Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage has thrown itself into its new sphere of activity with great vigour, members being all anxious to help in many different ways.

A shop has been taken at 106, George Street, to be used as a Registration Bureau, for classifying and distributing all kinds of offers of voluntary work. A register is being kept of all offers of help, which are classified under various headings. We note the many and varied capacities of our members, the large number who have professional training in some form or another, and also the number of non-members who are offering their help. During the first five days that the shop was open between fifty and sixty inquirers called for information of different kinds, and already workers have been put in touch with different relief agencies. Gifts of all kinds are being received for our soldiers and sailors at the front, and books and magazines for the Navy, and comforts of every description for the Belgian refugees. The Bureau is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Relief Agencies.

The Society has communicated with the various charitable relief agencies in the district with a view to co-operating in relief work, these offers of help being in every case gratefully received. Both the Secretary and Chairman of one Society called at the office personally to express their gratitude for our offer of help. We are endeavouring to work in close co-operation with the Labour Exchange, the Corporation, and the various voluntary Associations, such as the Red Cross and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. A large band of our members is already engaged in visiting the dependents of soldiers and sailors. One of the members of our Society has undertaken to organise the work of the Leith Branch of the Association.

Classes

A class for Invalid and Emergency cookery is being held by two members of the Society, trained cooks, who have offered their services, and lent the kitchen and all utensils, the dishes when cooked being given to needy cases.

A class for First Aid and elementary Sick Nursing is in full swing, the tuition being given by a woman doctor and sister at one of the hospitals. A number of people have applied for a class of a similar nature in the evenings.

Prince of Wales' Relief Fund.

Contributions amounting to £117 10s. have been sent to the above Fund through members of the Society; £7 4s. has been sent to the Red Cross Fund, and £2 2s. to the Queen Mary Fund. These sums are acknowledged weekly in the subscription lists which appear in the papers "per the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage."

Press.

Notices of the work of the Society have appeared in all the local papers. The street selling of THE COMMON CAUSE continues, the sales for the month of August being about 400. A fund has been opened for the employment of women who are out of work because of the war.

A Jumble Sale.

KILMARNOCK.—In addition to organising an Advisory Bureau for women and girls with a view to putting them in communication with the sources of employment and relief, is intending to have a Jumble Sale of clothing, which will give poor people the opportunity of getting garments at a nominal price, and bring in a small sum for the relief of cases of urgent necessity.

Public Meeting on Responsibilities of Women in War Time.

CAMBERLEY AND DISTRICT Society is organising a public meeting of an educational character on the responsibilities of women in war time. The Society's offer of help to the Chairman of the Urban District Council was accepted, and the Hon. Sec. was asked to undertake the organisation of help to dependents of soldiers and sailors, in connection with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. A War Relief Fund has been collected by the Society, part of which has been sent to the Active Service League Fund, and part kept for local use, work being given out in fruit bottling, and pillow making, &c.

Maidenhead.

On Saturday, August 29th, and the following Sunday, our Society organised and carried out a Belgian Badge day, on the lines of the Queen Alexandra Rose Day. Women of all shades of opinion worked enthusiastically with us and we collected £296 17s., including a few sums which have been sent later. Our badges were made of crêpe paper so the expenses were exceedingly small—the chief expense being for the pins!

Activities in Bristol.

Among many other useful activities, the BRISTOL Society has started a working party, at which garments are being made for babies in the Mothers' Schools. These are mostly woollen, and the mothers will be able to buy them at a very low price in place of flannelette and other less satisfactory garments.

Members are also making jam, to be sold in the winter at cost price to poor families, and given for free meals for children. The STREET Society has sent nearly three hundredweight of plums, and it is hoped to get members to gather blackberries for this purpose. Besides retaining its staff and offices, the Bristol Society has also sent £76 to the Lord Mayor's Relief Fund.

Liverpool Women Pioneers—Past and Present.

I have been to see what Liverpool women are doing in relief work. Gambier Terrace, where a large empty house has been taken for offices and workrooms, stands on high ground, and in an open space in front, a large building, still in the scaffolding stage, approaches completion. This is Liverpool Cathedral. The only finished portion, the Lady Chapel, is of peculiar interest to women. Its windows represent pictures of famous women of ancient and modern times, and among the honoured is Josephine Butler, her life-work explained by the scroll: "To Josephine Butler, and all brave champions of purity." At first one is struck by the irony of this posthumous honour done to this woman, who in her life-work met with little encouragement from the Church which now delights to honour her. The woman led and the Church followed. It is a stimulating thought, and it is a lesson in the value of mental independence. No great cause would be won if some people were not guided by inner vision rather than the consensus of public opinion, whether it be the opinion of the world political, the world social, or the world religious.

Memories of Liverpool's great pioneer woman are evoked by Liverpool Cathedral—the woman of the past who helped to give this generation a better chance than the last. Opposite the Cathedral is the house where the present women of Liverpool are stirring in a service not unworthy of great traditions. I was shown over the house by Miss Beavan, Hon. Secretary of the West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and N. Wales Federation of the N.U.W.S.S. I learnt that the idea of the organisation was evolved in the brain of Dr. Davies, one of Liverpool's leading woman doctors, and a member of the N.U.W.S.S. Different rooms are assigned to different departments of work. In one, offers of help of all kinds are registered—for nursing, needlework, interpreting, cooking, &c. Classes for ambulance work and invalid cookery are also being held, and sewing goes on apace. All sorts of gifts are pouring in—garments, bandages, periodicals, sacks, and horse blankets for horses. The secretarial work involved in acknowledging gifts occupies two people all their time.

From this centre workers are drafted to their work, gifts sent to their destinations, and the work of various other organisations, such as sewing parties, co-ordinated to avoid the overlapping and confusion that results from disjointed efforts. Girl guides are in evidence running errands, answering the door, and so on.

I asked Miss Beavan about relief work. She told me that the organisation of relief work in Liverpool had been handed over to Miss Eleanor Rathbone, whose work as a City Councillor is so much appreciated. Suffragists will remember with pride that she is also Chairman of the West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and N. Wales Federation of the N.U.W.S.S.

I proceeded to Miss Rathbone's newly opened offices in Commutation Row. There I found work in full swing. There seemed to be dozens of helpers, men and women. Relief is being arranged for soldiers' and sailors' dependents, and for other distress brought about by the war. A local fund has been opened, and Liverpool is ambitious to carry out the half promise given to those who are going to the front that their wives and families shall not suffer financially by their absence.

L. F. WARING.

CHELTENHAM Society is holding sewing meetings, but thinks it is a pity to stop propaganda work altogether, as some people are under the delusion that we have now given up Women's Suffrage. The Society has put out a large poster on its permanent space with the words "Women are asked to help in time of war. Why not let them help in times of peace with their votes? Enfranchise the world's women and stop the world's wars."

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WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING TO HELP.

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Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The Women's Committee called together by the Chairman of the local Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. has had a very busy fortnight. Several pieces of work are in full swing, under the management of various members of the Committee. The difficulty is to find anyone who will leave her own share to write a report of the whole. One of the first acts of the Committee was to authorise the publication of a handbill, "To Every Woman," which seeks to give advice to volunteers as to wise ways of offering help. The list of luxuries for soldiers which may safely be made without danger of adding to unemployment has already been hailed with relief by many a bewildered worker. Dr. Ethel Williams and Miss Hardcastle have very kindly given a donation to provide five thousand copies of the handbill, which the Committee propose to publish and distribute as widely as possible.

The chief work undertaken was a scheme, now well under way, to help dressmakers and small firms making clothing, by giving them orders for garments for Belgian and French refugees, and for our own needy; also garments needed for Red Cross work and for our own soldiers and sailors. Several firms have thus been enabled to employ workers who would otherwise have been dismissed, and the employees themselves are protected by the strict conditions laid down by the Committee. Patterns and price-lists of the clothing may be seen at 51, Blackett Street, the office of the "National Political League," who have very kindly lent their offices for the purposes of the scheme.

Miss Dorothea Richardson has been appointed Treasurer, and orders to the value of £40 were received in the first two or three days. Most of us know how precarious, at the best of times, is the livelihood of many dressmakers, and our members and friends are urgently asked to help in this most practical way. Further orders will be gladly received by Miss Andrew, our Organiser.

Another sub-committee was empowered to offer help to the "Mothers' and Babies' Welcome Society," with a view to widening the work of this association. Help is to take the form of voluntary workers and of money. Donations for this object will be gladly received.

Through the efforts of a member of the Committee, classes in invalid cookery and in needlework have been arranged for a group of young working girls who were keenly anxious "to help the soldiers," without exactly knowing in what way they could do so. The untrained volunteers have been a problem to the Committee ever since the first appeal was issued. Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE might be interested to hear in what way other Societies have faced the difficulty.

Another of our Suffrage workers has arranged for relays of helpers at an office of the War Relief Fund, at the Town Hall, to receive applications. Other members, experienced in investigation work, are asked to communicate with the Secretary of their District Relief Committees, and to mention the National Union in their application.

List of Societies.

Owing to the reduction in the size of THE COMMON CAUSE *during the war, we are unable to publish the List of Societies monthly as before. The last list will be found in the issue of July 31st. Since then the following changes of secretary have taken place:—*

Ascot.—*Pro tem.*, Miss P. Forrester, Creenay, Ascot.

Banbury.—Mrs. Penrose, 32, West Bar, Banbury.

Basingstoke.—Mrs. Forrester, Glenholme, Basingstoke.

Bath.—*Pro tem. Sec.*, Miss Lawson, 45, Combe Park, Bath.

Beaconsfield.—Mrs. Snow, Carngray, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

Berkhampstead.—Mrs. Stevenson, Glanmor, Doctor's Commons Road.

Bristol (East).—Miss Pride, 68, Thingwall Park, Fishponds, Bristol.

Cinderford. — Miss Matthias, Senior Elementary School, Cinderford.

Colchester.—No Secretary at present.

Crowborough.—Miss E. Pannett, Forest Lea.

Farnham and District.—Miss Wilson, Corrymeela, Old Farnham Lane, Farnham.

Faversham.—*Pro tem.*, Mrs. C. Evers, Albion Terrace, Faversham.

Godalming.—Miss F. W. Powell, Munstead Rough, and Mrs. Burnett.

Great Missenden (under Bucks, Mid).—Miss S. B. Courtauld, Bocken, Great Missenden, Bucks.

Heathfield and District.—Mrs. Cunliffe, Kingswood, The Lee, Great Missenden.

Kettering.—*Pro tem.*, Mrs. Percy Wallis, Westacre, Kettering.

Knowle and Dorridge.—Miss Whitehouse, Bentley Heath, Knowle.

Lapworth and District.—Miss N. C. Parr, Lapworth Court, Hockley Heath.

London Society, Branches—

Battersea.—Mrs. Beaumont Thomas, 6, Elspeth Road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

Hackney (Central and South).—Miss Bugge, 3, Meynell Road, South Hackney; and Miss N. Bishop, Moreton Lodge, Clapton.

Hackney (North).—Miss Partlock, 70, Osbaldistone Road, Stoke Newington.

Hampstead.—Miss F. Bagenal, 12, Keats Grove, N.W.

Richmond.—Mrs. Bailey, 18, Denbigh Gardens, Richmond.

Louth.—No Secretary.

Maidstone.—Mrs. Hewlett Hobbs, 13, Hastings Road.

Northallerton.—Miss D. S. Green, The Green, Romamby, Northallerton.

Oundle and District.—Miss M. K. Elliott, Market Place, Oundle.

Portishead.—*Pro tem.*, Mrs. Stanley Wood, 11, Adelaide Terrace, Portishead.

Portsmouth.—Miss Whillier, 52, Cottage Grove, Southsea.

Redditch.—Miss A. M. Milward, Foxlydiate, Redditch.

Rochester.—Miss Conway Gordon, Longley Street, Rochester.

Romford.—Mrs. Walker, The Nook, Oak Street.

Shipley.—Mrs. Brunton, 12, Park Mount Avenue, Baildon, Shipley.

Silksworth.—Miss Sheard, 22, Elizabeth Street, Castletown, Sunderland.

Southport.—*Pro tem.*, Miss McVine, 133, Sussex Road, Southport.

Stafford.—Miss M. S. Mackenzie, 23, Tipping Street, Stafford.

Torquay.—Miss N. H. Palmer, 19, Abbey Road.

Wednesbury.—Miss Westley, Market Place.

Winscombe.—*Pro tem.*, Mrs. Grubb, The Down.

Wokingham.—Miss E. M. Sturge, Tiche Barn.

Scotland.

Ardrossan and Saltcoats.—Mrs. Barrie, Kyleshill House, Saltcoats.

Cupar.—Miss Davidson, Bennington Angle, Cupar, Fife.

Dumfries.—Miss Douglas, 6, Langlands, Dumfries.

Hamilton.—Miss A. M. Carmichael.

John o' Groat's.—Miss May Mackenzie, Thurso East.

Wales.

Aberystwyth.—Miss Maries Thomas, Somerville, South Terrace, Aberystwyth.

Bridgend.—Mrs. E. Ellen Stoman, Penrhys, 10, Quarnella Road, Bridgend, Glamorgan.

Colwyn Bay.—Miss M. Spencer, Farlands, Penrhyn Bay, near Llandudno.

Swansea.—Miss N. Griffith-Jones, 9, Eaton Crescent; and Mrs. Moore, 14, Cwmdoukin Terrace, Swansea.

Paris.—Mrs. M. Pearde Beaufort, 13, Boulevard de Montparnasse, Paris.

Suffragists on Relief Committees.

Preston.—A separate Relief Fund Ladies' Committee has been appointed with forty members, eight of whom belong to the N.U. and two to other Suffrage Societies.

Manchester.—Fourteen women on the Relief Committee, of whom eight are Suffragists, six belonging to the N.U.; four women on the Lancashire Relief Advisory Committee, all of whom are members of the N.U. On the Standing Distress Committee of the Manchester Corporation the two women members belong to the N.U., and a third member is being appointed.

Huddersfield.—The President of the W.S.S. is on the Town Distress Committee and also on the West Riding Committee. A large number of members are on various other Committees.

Godalming.—The Mayor's Committee invited two representatives of the Society to join it. Many members of the local Society were already on the Committee in other capacities.

Malvern.—Four members of the W.S.S. on Public Service and War Fund Committee (thirteen women on Committee).

Warrington.—Three women and eight men Suffragists on Town Committee (thirty-nine members).

Swansea.—The President of the W.S.S. and several members are on the Relief Fund Committee. The proportion of women on the Ward Committees is about one-fourth, most of whom are N.U. members.

Manchester and District Federation reports that Wilmslow, Farnworth, Cheadle and Gatley, Leigh, Rawtenstall and Stockport Societies are directly represented on Local Committees, and that members of Suffrage Societies are serving on Relief Committees in Marple, Accrington, Altrincham, Darwen, and Knutsford. Only in two districts, Sale and Buxton, have no women been appointed. Many members of the Manchester Society have been appointed to the Central and Local Committees.

The E.F.F. organisers have been allotted relief work in E.F.F. constituencies. Mrs. Annot Robinson will work in Ancoats and Bradford (Manchester), Miss Ellen Wilkinson goes to Stockport, Mrs. Tozer will work in Blackburn and Accrington, where owing to stoppage of mills and a recent industrial dispute, there is great trade dislocation.

Southampton.—Six members of the W.S.S. are on Ward Committees. As there has, so far, been no acknowledgment of the Society's offer of help to the Municipal Authorities, it has acted on its own initiative and called together a Special Committee to arrange future action.

Leicester.—Miss McTurk Alexander has been appointed representative of the Leicester W.S.S. on the Mayor's Committee.

Sheffield.—Three members of the W.S.S. have been co-opted on the Municipal Relief Committee. Other members have been asked to join the Sub-committee for the care of Aliens. The President and Secretary are also on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association Committee.

Chinley.—Eleven women and six men members of the Chinley and Chapel-en-le-Frith W.S.S. on Relief Committee of thirty (fifteen women and sixteen men in all), three men and three women on Finance Sub-committee, six men and six women on Employment Sub-committee.

Chapel-en-le-Frith.—One member of W.S.S. represents the Society on Relief Committee, on which there are several other women.

Oundle.—A Ladies' War Emergency Committee of thirteen members has been appointed, six of whom are members of the N.U., one a "Friend of Women's Suffrage," and two members of other Suffrage Societies.

York.—Fourteen ladies have been appointed to the Citizen's Committee, four of whom are members of the N.U., and one of the Church League.

Bolton.—Three ladies appointed to the Relief Committee, of whom one is a member of the N.U. There is a proposal to enlarge the Committee and appoint a Ladies' Sub-committee.

Swansea.—Ten ladies have been appointed to the local Executive Committee, of whom six are members of the N.U.

Kilmarnock.—The Relief Committee consists entirely of men, but the W.S.S. sent a deputation to the Provost, and obtained an undertaking that women should be co-opted on the Sub-committees, and that the advisability of adding women to the Central Committee should be brought before that Committee at its next meeting.

Romiley.—Eight members of the W.S.S. serving on the Relief Committees, but the request for the Society to be directly represented was refused, on the grounds that it was a political body.

Chester.—As a result of the offer of service made to the Mayor, a member of the Chester W.S.S. was put on the local Committee of the Prince of Wales's Fund, and the Society was asked to undertake the secretarial duties in connection with the Mayoress's Working Parties' Fund.

Rhyl.—Seven women members of the N.U. elected to the Relief Fund Committee.

Rotherham.—The local W.S.S. was invited to send one representative for the Mayor's Executive Committee, and nine other representatives, one to sit on each Ward Committee.

Camberley and District.—Four members of the W.S.S. elected to the Distress Committee.

Shipston-on-Stour.—Seven women, one of whom is a member of the W.S.S., elected to Distress Committee, and fourteen men, of whom one is a "Friend."

Dunfermline.—Two members of the W.S.S. on the local Relief Committee.

Edinburgh.—The Lord Provost on August 25th received a deputation from the W.S.S., requesting representation on the Central Relief Committee. He promised to give the matter his best consideration, and the name of Miss Alice Low was subsequently given as the Society's representative. Steps are being taken to ensure the co-option of at least one member of the Society on each of the Ward Committees, and sympathetic letters have been received from a large number of the Councillors in response to the Society's request for representation.

Leith.—Representation has been secured for the N.U. on the Relief Committee. On the General Committee there are ten women, six of whom are members of the N.U.

Dalkeith.—Three members of the N.U. are on the Relief Committee.

Bo'ness.—Three women are on the Relief Committee, two of whom are members of the N.U.

Carmarthen.—The Chairman of the W.S.S. has been placed on the Ladies' Organising Committee, by request, as representative of the Society, and there are also several other members of the N.U. on that Committee, and other War Relief Committees.

Coventry.—Out of sixty-four members of the Relief Fund Committee, twelve are women. In common with the Co-operative Guild, the W.S.S. wrote in the early days of the war, offering the services of members on the Committee. After three weeks the Secretary was told that there were already too many members on the Committee, but of course when the letter was first written there were not nearly so many on. There is the same difficulty with the wards. Two or three have no women, some one.

Maidenhead.—The Treasurer, Secretary, and two members of the W.S.S. Committee are serving on the local branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. The Treasurer, Secretary, and one member of Committee serve on the Committee of the National Relief Fund.

EAST-END SUFFRAGETTES.

Last week a deputation from the East London Federation of the Suffragettes waited on Mr. Runciman at the Board of Trade. The deputation was composed of Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Farrall, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Payne (of Bow), Mrs. Walker (of Poplar), Mrs. Drake and Mrs. Parsons (of Canning Town). Miss Pankhurst introduced the deputation, saying that they had come to ask that during the war the Government should control the food supplies, in order to safeguard the interests of the working people who form the immense majority of the population. She suggested that the Government should fix maximum prices in the wholesale trade, allowing for a fixed profit, and then make good the deficit, if any. "The people cannot be allowed to starve," she said. "It will cost money to feed them, however it is done, and it will be cheaper in the end if the Government pays something to keep prices down rather than give food away wholesale. In doing so, it will help poor people who are too proud to ask for charity, and at the same time prevent unscrupulous traders from making enormous profits." The other members of the deputation told from personal experience of the high prices and consequent hardship now prevalent in the East End; they also complained of the overtime that was being worked on Government contracts, and Mr. Runciman promised that the Board of Trade would arrange that in the giving out of all future Government contracts it should be stipulated that no overtime should be worked.

A full account of the deputation is to be found in *The Woman's Dreadnought* for Saturday, September 5th.

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MARRIAGE.

WEST: GILES.—On September 2nd, Julius West to Ruth Giles.

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PLAYS, DUOLOGUES, MONOLOGUES,
Dealing with all phases of the Woman's Movement,
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For Drawing-rooms, Platforms or Stage purposes.
Descriptive List (2d.) post free on application.
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THE LONDON SOCIETY'S "CLEARING HOUSE FOR VOLUNTARY WORKERS IN THE NATIONAL CRISIS," 58, Victoria-st., S.W., is inundated with demands from every part of London for efficient voluntary workers. Members, or others, who have not yet registered should do so immediately. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Organisation Fund are greatly needed and should be sent to Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves, as above. "Enid's" "White Dove" leaflet, 1d.; 4s. 6d. a hundred.

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